

Bingley Urban District Council.



REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health
(H. ANGUS, M.D.)

AND

Senior Sanitary Inspector
(W. E. COOKE, M.I.C.S., M.S.I.A.)

*For the Year ending
31st December, 1926.*

Public Health Committee.

Mr. W. RUSHTON, Chairman.

„ J. WORSNOP, Deputy-Chairman.

„ J. CLARKE.

„ J. C. GUILLET.

„ W. LONGBOTTOM.

„ R. MITCHELL.

„ R. W. PRESTON.

„ J. W. WALKER, J.P.

„ R. WALSH.

„ W. M. WHITWHAM.

Mrs. MOULDEN	}	For Maternity and
Mrs. ROBERTSHAW		Child Welfare Work.

Staff of the Public Health Department.

Medical Officer of Health :

H. ANGUS, M.D.

Senior Sanitary Inspector :

W. E. COOKE, M.I.C.S., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

H. C. T. DARLEY, C.R.S.I.,

T. W. CRAGG (part-time).

Health Visitors :

Miss N. BARUGH, A.R.San.I.,

Miss C. O'CONNOR (Certified Midwife),
(Wilsden and Harden).

Mrs. B. BIRKS (Certified Midwife),
(Cullingworth).

BINGLEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1926.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Bingley Urban
District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

The following Report is prepared in accordance with instructions given in a circular issued by the Ministry of Health dated December 20th, 1926. Matters which are specially referred to in the circular will be found enumerated and dealt with in the Appendix subjoined to this Report.

The year 1926 has been characterised by several points of interest and by considerable activity in matters of sanitation. In the first place the birth-rate, death-rate and infantile death-rate are all the lowest recorded during my medical officer-ship, and probably the lowest on record. For purposes of comparison these rates are given below, along with the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

			Birth rate per 1,000 of population	Death rate per 1,000 of population		Death rate of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 births
England and Wales	...	17.8	...	11.6	...	70
London	...	17.1	...	11.6	...	64
Large Towns (over 50,000)	...	18.2	...	11.6	...	73
Smaller Towns (20,000 to 50,000)	...	17.6	...	10.6	...	67
Bingley Urban District		14.5	...	10.6	...	56

It will be seen that as regards the general and infantile death-rates the Urban District of Bingley holds a creditable position. The estimated population of the District shows an increase of 270 on the previous year and is now 19,650. It seems probable therefore that before the next census is taken, this figure will have reached 20,000, which would entitle Bingley to be grouped among the "Smaller Towns" of the Registrar General's Returns. The expectation of such an increase in the population is rendered more certain by the fact that there is a marked tendency for people whose work lies outside the district to choose Bingley as a place of residence. The greater facilities of transit which are now available and the acknowledged amenities of Bingley, make the town a favourite residence for people who are employed in Bradford, Shipley and Keighley. It would appear, therefore, to be desirable that the Council should endeavour by all means in its power to maintain and if possible to increase these advantages.

As regards notifiable infectious diseases the number of cases reported has been well below the average of previous years, there having been no noteworthy epidemic during the year. The only infectious disease showing a considerable mortality among young children was whooping cough, which was somewhat prevalent in the early part of the year, and was the cause of five deaths of children under 5 years old.

Much anxiety has been felt on account of the prevalence of small-pox in adjoining areas, but up to the end of the year only one case had been notified in Bingley. The mildness of the great majority of the cases in the neighbourhood only renders the task of the Sanitary Department more difficult inasmuch as persons suffering from the disease often show so slight signs of illness that cases are apt to be overlooked and the patient may mix with other persons or even follow his usual occupation whilst in a highly infectious state. This renders constant watchfulness necessary on the part of all medical practitioners, and especially of the Medical Officer of Health. In spite of the slight nature of most of the cases, there is no doubt whatever that the disease actually is small-pox. This is proved by the occasional occurrence of well-marked cases corresponding to the type of smallpox seen in previous epidemics. The superficial resemblance of chicken-pox to a mild case of small-pox has led many authorities to include the former disease in the list of notifiable diseases. This was done by the Bingley Council, but so far no particular advantage has been shown to arise and many cases of chicken-pox escape notification since the illness is so trivial that no doctor is called in. I think, nevertheless, that notification may prove useful and in the meantime I recommend its continuance.

The procedure adopted on the occurrence of a case of small-pox is to make as complete a list as possible of the names of all persons who have been in contact with the case, to urge all such persons to be vaccinated, and to keep them under observation for 16 days. It is true that such observation can only be partial, but in the case of work-people, their employers are asked to communicate with the Health Department whenever any of the "contacts" are absent from work or show signs of illness. These are immediately visited and the nature of the illness, if any, enquired into.

In regard to vaccination I would repeat what I have often stated before, that **one of the best established facts known to medical science is that recent vaccination will prevent small-pox**, and that if vaccination is performed immediately after contact with a case of small-pox, there is a very strong probability that the vaccinated person will escape the disease.

The number of persons in the district believed to be suffering from tuberculosis at the end of the year, as shown by the Tuberculosis Register, was 156, of whom 104 were classed as pulmonary cases and 52 as non-pulmonary, both classes showing a slight increase on the previous year.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The various clinics have continued during the year, and in association with regular Health Visiting have been, I have no doubt, largely instrumental in bringing about the reduction in the infantile death rate.

The following table shows the visits paid by the Health Visitors in their respective districts.

	Bingley and District	Wilsden and Harden	Culling- worth	Total
First visits to infants under 1 yr.	146	63	24	233
All visits to infants under 1 year	987	321	88	1396
Visits to children aged 1 to 5 ...	571	123	360	1054
Visits to expectant mothers ...	21	6	51	78

The Health Visitors also visited 4 cases of ophthalmia neonatorum, 35 cases of measles and 109 of whooping cough.

Grants of milk were made to 37 families during the year, in cases where the family income fell below a certain sum for each person.

The difficulty of the **housing** problem, which has been so insistent ever since the cessation of building during the war, is now very materially diminished. Overcrowding still exists, but to a less extent than during the past few years. It is true that many new-comers to the district and many who wish to begin house-keeping, have great difficulty in obtaining houses at a rent which they can afford to pay, and are driven to live in lodgings, often paying more for one or two rooms than would be asked for a three or four roomed house if such were obtainable. There seems no solution but to wait until the supply of houses exceeds the demand, when probably owners will be willing to let their houses instead of insisting on purchase as they are doing at present. The length of time which it takes to recover from a transient cessation of production is a point which need not be insisted on. It has been only too frequently manifest during recent years.

In two different directions much activity has been displayed during the year by the Sanitary Department, namely, the improvement of the **milk-supply** and the diminution of the **smoke nuisance**. Efforts have been made, I think with considerable success, to interest on the one hand, the producers of milk in the improvement in the quality, and on the other hand the producers of smoke in the diminution of the quantity, of their respective products. Meetings of farmers and milk distributors have been held at which the new Milk & Dairies Order has been explained and the necessity for cleanliness and fresh air insisted on. Many bacteriological examinations of milk have been made by the Department of Agriculture of the University of Leeds, and the results show a steady improvement. Assistance has also been shown by the Department in other ways. It is evident that among dairy-farmers there is a growing appreciation of the need for cleanliness and purity of milk which will no doubt result in an improvement in the health of the population, and especially of young children.

As regards smoke, it must be recognised that not only "black smoke" but all visible smoke is an evil which should be remedied as far as possible. Meetings have been held and an attempt made to interest manufacturers and firemen in the subject, but we must, if we are to have a pure atmosphere, also educate public opinion in the direction of reducing as far as possible the amount of domestic smoke emitted by dwelling-houses. Probably gas and electricity will in the future become more generally used, but the open coal fire is so much beloved by English people that it is not likely to be abolished, although improvements in grates and in methods of burning coal may limit the output of smoke.

I am reminded that this is the twenty-fifth Annual Report which I have had the honour of submitting to the Council. After a quarter of a century's service I think one may look back with satisfaction on the considerable sanitary improvements that have been made in our environment, but one of the best signs of progress, it seems to me, is to be found in the increased breadth of view regarding sanitation which is taken to-day by the Council as a whole and the Health Committee in particular. From being for the most part a question of the removal of nuisances and of the control of infectious diseases, which were the chief functions of the Sanitary Department at the beginning of my period of office, the scope of the Public Health is now recognised as including the promotion of good health as well as the avoidance of disease. Our aim is to insure that healthy homes, wholesome food, and ample facilities for recreation shall be available for everyone. There is, it is true, still much to be done especially in regard to the first of these essentials but we may look back with satisfaction on what has been accomplished. The abolition of privies and privy-middens in the town and surrounding villages, the increased attention to the purity of food and milk, the initiation of Infant Welfare work, and the acquisition of Myrtle Park as a playground and pleasure resort for everyone, with the prospective addition of a public bath, are examples of the Council's activity which may be recorded. For my own part I shall always account it one of the chief privileges of my professional life that I have been associated with the Bingley Urban District Council as its medical officer during the period when these improvements were inaugurated.

In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee and to the Sanitary Inspector and his staff for their unremitting labours in the cause of Public Health, to the voluntary workers at the Infant Clinics for their continued interest in the welfare of children, and to the Health Visitors for their constant efforts to maintain the health of the young.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

H. ANGUS, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

APPENDIX.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (in acres)	11,675
Population (Census 1921)	18,942
Population (estimated 1926)	19,650
Number of inhabited houses (1921)	5,075
Number of inhabited houses (estimated 1926)	5,565
Number of families or separate occupiers (1921)	4,900
Rateable Value	£105,403
Sum represented by a penny rate	£380

Social Conditions.

The district is an industrial one. Various branches of woollen manufacture occupy about one-fourth of the total number of workers. The proportion of females to males so employed is about 8 to 5, and a considerable number of female workers being married women it follows that during working hours many children are deprived of maternal care and oversight. This does not appear to affect the infantile death rate adversely, but I fear that children from the age of one year up to three or four suffer from this cause to a greater degree. Iron workers come next in number to workers in textile trades. Most of these are employed in neighbouring towns and go to and from work daily.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Births	{		...	Male.	Female.	Total.
				134	139	273
	{	Illegitimate	...	6	6	12
		Total	...	140	145	285

Birth rate—14.5 per 1000.

Deaths	...	...	...	Male.	Female.	Total.
				106	103	209

Death rate—10.6 per 1000.

Number of women dying in or in consequence of child-birth :

From sepsis	1
From other causes	0

Deaths of Infants under 1 year :—

Legitimate	15	...	Rate per 1000 legitimate births	...	54
Illegitimate	1	...	Rate per 1000 illegitimate births	...	83
<hr/>					
Total	...	16	...	Infantile death rate per 1000 births	56
<hr/>					
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
„ „ whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	0

Deaths from specified causes of disease are shown on page 10. Compared with the previous year there is a diminution in the number of deaths from all the principal causes with the exception of cancer and pneumonia, which show an increase.

The table on page 9 shows the birth-rate, death-rate and infantile death-rate for each year since 1902. It will be seen that all three rates for 1926 are the lowest on record and that the averages for the five years 1922 to 1926 are also the lowest averages for the same period. In a comparatively small district such as this, progress can be more surely estimated by comparison of five-year periods than from year to year. Individual years may give a wrong impression, whereas the rates for the longer period enable comparison to be made with larger towns. Taking the table as a whole it is evident that steady advancement is being made in regard to the prolongation of life but that the number of children born is steadily declining.

Table Showing Birth and Death-rates since 1902.

Year	Birth-rate		Death-rate		Infantile Death-rate		
1902 ...	23.4	per 1,000	... 12.3	per 1,000	... 95	per 1,000 B'ths.	
1903 ...	21.8	„	... 14.1	„	... 130	„ „	
1904 ...	21.3	„	... 14.9	„	... 142	„ „	
1905 ...	22.0	„	... 15.5	„	... 105	„ „	
1906 ...	18.9	„	... 15.0	„	... 133	„ „	
Average for five years.	21.4	„	... 14.3	„	... 121	„ „	
1907 ...	19.4	„	... 14.6	„	... 114	„ „	
1908 ...	19.6	„	... 13.3	„	... 104	„ „	
1909 ...	17.2	„	... 13.9	„	... 109	„ „	
1910 ...	18.2	„	... 12.8	„	... 91	„ „	
1911 ...	19.3	„	... 13.1	„	... 93	„ „	
Average for five years.	18.7	„	... 13.5	„	... 102	„ „	
1912 ...	16.5	„	... 13.7	„	... 81	„ „	
1913 ...	19.9	„	... 15.5	„	... 85	„ „	
1914 ...	17.4	„	... 12.8	„	... 70	„ „	
1915 ...	16.9	„	... 14.8	„	... 82	„ „	
1916 ...	14.9	„	... 13.8	„	... 99	„ „	
Average for five years.	17.1	„	... 14.1	„	... 83	„ „	
1917 ...	11.7	„	... 14.1	„	... 80	„ „	
1918 ...	11.5	„	... 19.4	„	... 83	„ „	
1919 ...	13.6	„	... 14.6	„	... 67	„ „	
1920 ...	21.2	„	... 14.2	„	... 84	„ „	
1921 ...	20.1	„	... 10.8	„	... 60	„ „	
Average for five years.	15.6	„	... 14.6	„	... 75	„ „	
1922 ...	17.0	„	... 12.8	„	... 63	„ „	
1923 ...	16.3	„	... 12.7	„	... 72	„ „	
1924 ...	15.2	„	... 14.2	„	... 58	„ „	
1925 ...	14.9	„	... 14.7	„	... 100	„ „	
1926 ...	14.5	„	... 10.6	„	... 56	„ „	
Average for five years.	15.5	„	... 13.0	„	... 69	„ „	

Causes of Death in 1926.

Disease.						No. of Deaths.
Whooping-cough	...	...	...	...	...	5
Influenza	...	...	...	...	...	3
Meningococcal meningitis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Other Tuberculous diseases	...	...	...	...	...	2
Cancer, malignant disease	...	...	...	...	...	32
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	...	9
Cerebral haemorrhage, &c.	...	...	...	...	...	14
Heart disease	...	...	...	...	...	25
Arterio-sclerosis	...	...	...	...	...	14
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	...	11
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	...	11
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	...	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	...	...	5
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	...	...	...	...	...	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	...	4
Puerperal sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	1
Congenital debility and malformation, premature births...	...	...	...	...	...	5
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	...	7
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	...	44
Causes ill-defined or unknown	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total						<u>209</u>

Deaths of children from birth up to 5 years.

Under 1 week	...	...	...	...	7
1 to 2 weeks	...	...	...	...	0
2 to 3 weeks	...	...	...	...	0
3 to 4 weeks	...	...	...	...	1
Under 1 month	...	...	...	...	8
1 to 2 months	...	...	...	...	2
2 to 3 months	...	...	...	...	2
3 to 4 months	...	...	...	...	0
4 to 5 months	...	...	...	...	0
5 to 6 months	...	...	...	...	1
6 to 7 months	...	...	...	...	1
7 to 8 months	...	...	...	...	0
8 to 9 months	...	...	...	...	1
9 to 10 months	...	...	...	...	1
10 to 11 months	...	...	...	...	0
11 to 12 months	...	...	...	...	0
Under 1 year	...	...	...	...	16
1 to 2 years	...	...	...	...	3
2 to 5 years	...	...	...	...	1
Total					20

Causes of death in children under 5.

Whooping cough	...	...	...	...	5
Respiratory disease	...	...	...	...	3
Congenital debility and premature birth...					6
Cerebrospinal meningitis	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	2
Other causes	...	...	...	...	3
Total					20

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Infant Clinics.

No. of Centre	Address	Accommodation	No. of Meetings	Total Att'dance	Average Att'dance	No. on Register	Remarks
1	Myrtle, Grove, Bingley.	Rooms provided by District Council.	51	1321	26	235	Weekly meetings, consultations, advice on feeding and management by M.O.H. treatment of minor ailments.
2	Royd House, Wilsden.	Rooms provided by District Council.	26	416	16	80	Fortnightly meetings, consultations and advice by M.O.H.
3	Baptist Schoolroom, Cullingworth.	Rooms rented for the purpose by District Council	25	285	11	60	Fortnightly meetings, consultations, and advice by M.O.H.
4	Memorial Hall, Harden.	Rooms rented for the purpose by District Council	25	227	9	45	Fortnightly meetings, consultations and advice by M.O.H.
Total for Infant Clinics :			127	2249	17	420	

Ante-natal Clinic.

5	Myrtle Grove, Bingley.	Rooms provided by District Council.	
6	Dispensary, Shipley.	Tuberculosis Clinic. Administered by West Riding County Council.	
7	Victoria Hospital, Keighley.	Venereal Clinic. Administered by West Riding County Council.	

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority :

- A. (1) **Fever**—Morton Banks Isolation Hospital for Infectious Diseases, administered by Keighley and Bingley Joint Hospital Board, has ample accommodation and is conveniently situated for the needs of the area.
- (2) **Smallpox**—Hospital at Stanbury—about 8 miles from Bingley—administered by Joint Hospital Board.
- B. (1) **Tuberculosis**—The various sanatoria provided by the West Riding County Council.
- (2) **Maternity**—St. Luke's Hospital, Bradford.
- (3) **Children**—Cottage Hospital, Bingley.
- (4) **Others**—The only general hospital in the District is the Bingley Cottage Hospital, situated about the centre of the area. It has accommodation for twelve men, 17 women and 12 children, and is assisted financially by the District Council which is represented on the Committee of Management.

There is no special institutional provision for unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants, or homeless children in the area.

Ambulance facilities.

Motor ambulances are provided by the Keighley and Bingley Joint Hospital Board for the conveyance of infectious cases to hospital. The District Council possesses a horse ambulance for non-infectious and accident cases, but a motor ambulance is a desideratum.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (part-time).

Senior Sanitary Inspector (whole time), who is also Inspector under the Housing Acts, Canal Boats Acts, Milk and Dairies Orders and Superintendent of House Refuse Removal. Qualifications: Sanitary Inspector's Certificate and Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute, Diploma of Incorporated Institute of Hygiene, Diploma of Institute of Cleansing Superintendents.

Additional Sanitary Inspector (whole time). Qualifications: Sanitary Inspector's Certificate and Meat and Food Inspector's Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

Additional Sanitary Inspector (part-time) in Wilsden Village.

One half of the salaries of the above Officers are repaid by Exchequer grants.

Health Visitors. One trained Nurse, holding Health Visitor's Certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute, working in Bingley, Cottingley, Crossflatts, and Eldwick (also acting as School Nurse in Bingley and as School Nurse and Health Visitor in East and West Morton and Riddlesden under the West Riding County Council).

One trained Nurse, who holds C.M.B. certificate, working in Wilsden and Harden (also acting as District Nurse and School Nurse in these villages and neighbourhood).

One trained Nurse holding C.M.B. Certificate working in Cullingworth and neighbourhood (also acting as District Nurse and Midwife and School Nurse in the same area).

A grant towards the salaries of the Health Visitors is made by the Ministry of Health with respect to their work in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare. The County Council also contribute to their salaries on account of School Nursing.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Two District Nurses, one whole time and one part time, work in Bingley and the neighbourhood. One District Nurse works in the combined district of Wilsden and Harden, and one in Cullingworth district. The Bingley nurses are employed by the Bingley District Nursing Association and are occupied solely in home nursing. The other two in addition to home nursing also act as School Nurses and Health Visitors in their respective districts. The Wilsden and Harden nurse is employed by the Wilsden and Harden District Nursing Association and the Cullingworth nurse by the Cullingworth District Nursing Association.

The Nursing Associations are supported by voluntary contributions, and by grants from local charities. Where the nurses are also Health Visitors and School Nurses these services are paid for by the District Council and the Education Authority respectively.

No provision is made by the Local Authority for nursing infectious cases at home.

Midwives.

Three trained midwives reside in Bingley and practise in the town and vicinity. One trained and certified midwife lives at Harden and practices in the Wilsden and Harden District. The District Nurse at Cullingworth also holds the C.M.B. certificate. Assistance is given by the District Council towards the payment of midwives' fees in the case of poor persons.

LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

The following Local Acts, General Adoption Acts and Byelaws are in force in the District :—

Local Acts.

Bingley Improvement Act, 1847.

Bingley Extension and Improvement Act, 1867.

Bingley Water and Improvement Act, 1881.

Bingley Urban District Council Act, 1901.

Adopted Acts.

Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1890, Parts II., III., V.

Public Health Acts (Amendment) Act, 1907. Part II., Sections 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33. Part III., Sections 34, 35, 36, 37, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, and 51. Part IV., Sections 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66. Parts V. and VI. Part VII., Sections 81 and 86. Parts VIII. and X.

Public Health Act, 1925.

Notification of Births Act, 1907.

The Baths and Washhouses Acts.

The Public Libraries Acts.

BYELAWS.

Relating to Cleansing of Footways and Pavements.

		Approved 8th July, 1890.
„	„	Prevention of Nuisances. Approved 8th July, 1890.
„	„	Common Lodging Houses. Approved 8th July, 1890.
„	„	Slaughter-houses. Approved 8th July, 1890.
„	„	Offensive Trades. Approved 27th Oct., 1922.
„	„	New Street and Buildings. Approved 6th Oct., 1923.
„	„	Tents, Vans and Sheds. Approved 21st, Oct., 1926.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

The only important work in regard to water supply done during the year was the relaying of water mains at Cottingley and the extension of the supply to a number of houses in Lee Lane.

Rivers and Streams.

A few minor cases of pollution have been dealt with.

Drainage and Sewerage.

No important extension of sewerage is to be noted but much work has been done at Wilsden in connection with reconstruction of faulty drains, which it is hoped will remove a long standing cause of complaint in that village.

Closet Accommodation.

The following figures give the number of conversions during the last six years :—

1921	...	42
1922	...	114
1923	...	124
1924	...	157
1925	...	118
1926	...	112

The following are the approximate numbers of each type of privy and closet in the district at the end of 1926 :

Division	Water Closets	Waste Water Closets	Pail Closets	Privy Midden Closets	Open Middens	Covered Middens	Dustbins	Ash Places
Bingley ...	2550	720	11	36	11	20	552	874
Cottingley	194	11	29	33	2	16	93	25
Harden ...	215	6	24	10	3	12	166	7
Crossflatts	356	31	2	5	0	3	115	70
Mickle'wte	143	3	13	7	3	4	15	12
Culling'th	271	30	33	25	10	7	113	76
Gilstead	56	5	4	19	6	12	24	10
Eldwick	143	3	15	68	8	38	65	20
Wilsden	584	52	12	101	23	54	250	104
Totals ...	4412	861	143	304	71	166	1393	1198

Schools.

There is no complaint to make concerning the sanitary condition or water supply of schools in the district. On seven occasions all in the first quarter of the year, closure of Infant schools was advised on account of the prevalence of whooping cough and mumps amongst the children attending.

Scavenging, Sanitary Inspection of the Area, action taken in regard to Smoke Abatement, and in regard to premises and occupations which can be controlled by Byelaws or Regulations are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, p.p. 22et seq.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total, including numbers given separately under (b)	122
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(i) By the Local Authority	19
(ii) By other bodies or persons	97

1. Unfit dwelling-houses.

Inspection—(1) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	136
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	40
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	1
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	30

2.—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	6
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3. Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	8
(2) Number of dwellinghouses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices	0
(a) By owners	0
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	0
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B.--Proceedings under Public Health Acts :

(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	3
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners	2
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	0

C.—Proceedings under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925 :—

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	1
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	1
(3) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwellinghouses having been rendered fit	0
(4) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
(5) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders... ..	0

Inspection and Supervision of Food is referred to in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector, pp. 28 et seq.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The table on page 20a shows the number of cases of notifiable infectious diseases occurring during 1926. Compared with recent years the figures are on the whole satisfactory. Cases of Diphtheria were slightly above the average but no deaths resulted therefrom. Antitoxin is supplied by the Council when required but the more usual procedure is to send the patient to hospital immediately. The Schick and Dick tests for liability to Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever respectively have not been employed, there being no apparent need for their use.

The single case of smallpox notified was known to have been in contact with a case from outside the district. The policy of the Health Department in cases of smallpox is to make as complete a list of contacts as possible, to keep these under observation during the period of incubation, and to urge emphatically on all of them the advisability of vaccination or revaccination.

As no cases of malaria, dysentery or trench fever have been notified for several years it does not appear to be necessary to retain these amongst the list of notifiable diseases. In regard to pneumonia, although many cases are notified, no special steps are taken and no special hospital provision made. It seems to me doubtful therefore whether any advantage accrues from its inclusion in the list. Non-notifiable infectious diseases if they occur amongst school children are reported by the Education Authority.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Noti- fied	Cases		Vision un- impaired	Vision im- paired	Total blind- ness	Deaths
	Treated					
	At home	In hospital				
5	5	—	5	—	—	—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES IN 1926.

[illegible]

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	1	1	1	1	—	1	—
5	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—
20	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	1	3	3	1	1	1	—	—
35	3	1	—	1	2	1	—	—
45	4	2	—	2	3	1	—	1
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
Totals ...	9	9	4	6	8	4	1	1

No action was taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

No action was taken under the Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62, regarding compulsory removal to Hospital.

Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector for the year ending December 31st, 1926.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Bingley Urban
District Council.*

April 13th, 1927.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my Fifth Annual Report as Senior Sanitary Inspector of your District.

1926 was a year of steady and satisfactory progress as regards the sanitation of the area.

The abolition of one hundred and twelve privy and pail closets brought up the total number of such conversions to 667. The percentage of closet accommodation now on the water carriage system is 92, a gratifying record for an area which is largely rural in character.

The special attention given to meat and milk continued during the year and the relations between the traders concerned and the Department were usually good. There is obviously a growing appreciation of the fact that it is good business to co-operate with the Health Authority and maintain public confidence in the food supply concerned.

The steady increase in new legislation is continually adding to the work and responsibilities of the Department. To mention only the Milk & Dairies Order, the Smoke Abatement Act and the Public Health Act of 1925, indicates the amount of work remaining to be accomplished. The constant changes of staff since 1924 have added to the difficulties of administration, although one cannot blame the young men concerned, who, after obtaining a good experience here and being possessed of individual ability, have moved away to districts holding out attractions in the form of higher salaries. The new arrangements recently made with regard to the staff, will, it is hoped, leave us without changes for some little time to come.

In the following Report the main tabular statements follow this introduction, and comments on the various activities of the Department come afterwards.

TABLE No. 1.

SANITARY INSPECTIONS MADE.**Dwellinghouses.**

	Primary Inspections.	Re- inspections
Inspected and recorded under provisions of Consolidated Housing Act 1925	40	382
Inspected under provisions of Public Health Acts	96	218
Inspected under provisions of Rent Restriction Acts	—	3
Inspected re suspected overcrowding cases ...	63	138
Inspected re verminous conditions	46	35
Inspected after occurrence of Infectious Disease	37	—
Disinfected	49	—
Visited re smallpox contacts	28	—
Library Books disinfected	15	—
Inspections of Water-Closets	110	102
Inspections of Privies and Pail Closets, etc. ...	510	247
Inspections of Dry Ash Receptacles	165	119
Inspections of Common Passages	10	—

Drainage.

Visits to Works in progress	117	3
New drains approved after test	532	—
New drains disapproved	186	—
Old drains tested for defects	104	—
Old drains found defective after test	50	—
Old drains inspected	269	296

Slaughterhouses.

Number of visits	893	10
Carcases Inspected	6,895	—
Carcases inspected which were not Slaughter- house killed	19	—

Foodshops.

Number Inspected	29	—
-------------------------	----	---

Markets.

Visits to Live Stock Auctions	31	—
--------------------------------------	----	---

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Cowsheds Inspected	...	...	...	...	482	108
Dairies Inspected	...	...	...	...	148	33
Samples obtained for Bacterial Count and B. Coli test	80	—

Bakehouses.

Number Inspected	62	8
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Offensive Trade Premises.

Inspections of Premises	50	9
Inspections of Fish Fryers' premises	25	8

Factories and Workshops.

Sanitary Accommodation of Factories Inspected	...	...	...	...	3	11
Inspections of Workshops	...	...	...	...	105	21

Water Supply.

Visits to sources	...	...	...	...	4	12
Streams inspected re pollution	...	...	...	...	4	13
Inspections of domestic services	...	...	...	...	10	—

Emission of Black Smoke.

Number of observations of Factory Chimneys	110	—
--	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

Miscellaneous Inspections.

Sanitary Accommodation of Schools	...	...	...	...	6	2
Cinemas and Music Halls	...	...	...	...	5	—
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	6	4
Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	37	—
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	...	...	...	...	45	11
Piggeries	...	...	...	...	8	4
Ice Cream Manufactories	...	...	...	...	65	13
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	...	11	—
Districts	...	...	...	...	37	—
Refuse Tips	...	...	...	...	136	—
Keeping of Animals	...	...	...	...	7	13
re Rat Destruction	...	...	...	...	7	—
Burial Grounds	...	...	...	...	2	—
Miscellaneous Inspections	...	...	...	...	8	—
Inspections with Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	...	6	—
Inspections with Surveyor	...	...	...	...	7	—
Interviews with Owners, etc.	...	...	...	...	365	—

TABLE No. 2.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED.**Dwellinghouses.**

Unfit houses closed	...	...	...	...	...	1
Roofs repaired	...	...	...	...	...	22
Spouting repaired	...	...	...	...	...	38
Walls repaired	...	...	...	...	...	29
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	24
Windows made to open	...	...	...	...	...	11
Dampness remedied	...	...	...	...	...	12
Broken sash cords renewed	...	...	...	...	...	53
Defective plaster renewed	...	...	...	...	...	47
Fixtures repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	61
Houses provided with sinks	...	...	...	...	...	3
Sinks repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	4
Wash boilers provided or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	2
Floors levelled or repaired	...	...	...	...	...	42
Verminous houses disinfested	...	...	...	...	...	6
Dirty houses cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	9
Common passages limewashed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Overcrowding cases remedied	...	...	...	...	...	19

Water-Closets, Ashpits, Etc.

Additional water-closets provided	...	...	...	...	4
Water-closets replacing privy or pail closets	...	...	...	...	103
Defective water-closets repaired	...	...	...	...	31
Filthy water-closets cleansed after notice	...	...	...	...	22
Waste water-closets converted to pedestal type	...	...	...	...	8
Waste water-closets repaired	...	...	...	...	3
Privy-midden closets abolished	...	...	...	...	83
Pail closets abolished	...	...	...	...	29
Pail closets repaired	...	...	...	...	7
Open middens abolished	...	...	...	...	17
Covered middens abolished	...	...	...	...	43
Dustbins replacing middens	...	...	...	...	102
Dustbins replacing ashpits	...	...	...	...	39
Houses provided with dustbins	...	...	...	...	8
Defective dustbins renewed	...	...	...	...	33
Defective ashplaces repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Nuisances from wet offensive matter in ash receptacles abated	...	...	...	...	19

Drainage.

Houses completely re-drained	...	...	...	...	9
Drains repaired or reconstructed	..	...	...	...	51
Old drains abolished	...	...	...	...	11
Sink waste pipes disconnected	...	...	...	...	4
Rainwater fall pipes disconnected	...	...	...	...	2
Choked drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	48
Street gully drains renewed or repaired	...	...	...	...	8

Slaughterhouses.

Limewashed after Notice	...	...	...	...	7
Offal removed after Notice	...	...	...	...	6
Contraventions of Meat Regulations remedied	...	...	...	...	9

Cowsheds and Dairies.

Cleansed and limewashed after notice	...	...	...	...	21
Cowshed floors cleansed on request	...	...	...	...	23
Dirty cows groomed	...	...	...	...	350
Sheds completely reconstructed	...	...	...	...	9
Sheds provided with additional light and ventilation	...	...	...	...	7
Floors relaid	...	...	...	...	4
Water supplies provided	...	...	...	...	2
Can stores or milk rooms provided	...	...	...	...	5
Cooler covers provided	...	...	...	...	6

Offensive Trades.

Offal receptacles provided	...	...	...	...	3
Fish fryer's premises cleansed	...	...	...	...	3
Fish cleansing room reconstructed	...	...	...	...	1

Bakehouses.

Cleansed and limewashed after Notice	...	...	...	...	4
Ventilated	...	...	...	...	1

Factories and Workshops.

Sanitary conveniences provided with intervening ventilated spaces	...	...	...	...	7
W.C.'s cleansed or repaired	...	...	...	...	6
Workshops cleansed and limewashed after Notice	...	...	...	...	8

Water Supply.

Drains entering streams diverted into sewers	...	...	...	...	4
Houses or W.C.'s provided with adequate water supply	...	...	...	...	40
Water services repaired	...	...	...	...	6

Miscellaneous.

Caravans, etc., removed	...	...	...	...	4
School conveniences improved	...	...	...	...	2
Nuisance from pig keeping abated	...	...	...	...	3
Ice cream manufactories closed	...	...	...	...	5
Nuisances from fumes abated	...	...	...	...	4
Nuisances from manure middens abated	...	...	...	...	5
Various	...	...	...	...	5

Housing Inspection.

Forty houses were inspected during the year under the provisions of the Housing Act, 1925, and 96 under the Public Health Acts.

The inspections under the Housing Act were of a detailed nature and the information obtained was recorded on cards, one card for each dwellinghouse inspected. Details of the improvements effected as a result of these inspections are given on page 25.

Six verminous houses were dealt with during the year. Most of these houses were old and bugs had accumulated behind wall-plaster, under window bottoms and in matchboarded partitions. The usual procedure in such cases is to require the removal of defective plaster and to pull out the partitions, skirting boards, etc. Spraying with an approved vermicide and fumigation with sulphur usually follows but even this drastic treatment does not always effect a complete cure for many bugs escape the treatment by removing to adjoining houses. With the co-operation of the tenants, however, much good can be effected.

Nineteen cases of overcrowding were remedied during the year, many being relieved by the grant of the tenancy of a Council house. At the end of 1926 only 6 cases of overcrowding remained on our books, the lowest number for some years. There still remains, however, a strong demand for houses to be rented at a reasonable figure.

One closing order was made during the year.

Closet Accommodation.

A considerable amount of work was done in connection with privy conversion during the year, one hundred and twelve privy and pail closets being converted or abolished.

I would again like to record my appreciation of the general readiness of property owners to carry out this necessary sanitary improvement. In many cases the work was done in face of considerable financial difficulties and therefore reflects all the more credit on those concerned.

There now remain nearly four hundred and fifty privy and pail closets in the area but most of these are out of reach of sewers or water supplies. It is anticipated that conversion of the remainder will steadily proceed during the year.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Close attention was given during the year to this highly important branch of Public Health Work. The number of visits paid to slaughterhouses was eight hundred and ninety-three and the approximate number of carcasses inspected was 6,895. The amount of diseased meat condemned was 3,917 lbs. of which 3,060 lbs. was affected with Tuberculosis.

The provisions of the Meat Regulations as regards notification of slaughter were fairly well observed by the local butchers and practically every carcass was inspected before being passed for human consumption, despite the fact that the slaughterhouses are scattered over a wide area. This close inspection necessitated much work outside the ordinary office hours, and during holiday times.

Speaking generally a very good class of meat is sold in this area and the fact that nearly two tons had to be condemned is no reflection on the meat purveyors, for in most cases the diseased conditions would not be particularly evident during life. All diseased meat was surrendered by the butchers concerned for destruction.

Nine per cent of the cattle killed were found to be infected with tuberculosis in some degree. The lesions were usually primary localised infections of the lungs. 1.6 % of the pigs slaughtered were found to be tubercular, the sub maxillary gland being most frequently affected.

No meat is sold from stalls in the district. Food preparation places are inspected at intervals in order to see that cleanliness is observed.

The following two tables give details of meat condemned during 1926.

PARTICULARS OF MEAT CONDEMNED DURING 1926.

Meat affected with Tuberculosis.

Cattle.				Pigs.			
Whole carcasses	...	2		Whole carcasses	...	...	2
Portions of carcasses	...	5		Heads	...	...	16
Heads	...	12		Lungs	...	...	4
Lungs	...	168		Livers	...	...	2
Livers	...	12		Mesenteries	...	...	1
Hearts	...	5		Spleens	...	...	2
Stomachs	...	1					
Mesenteries	...	10					
Pleuras	...	4					
Spleens	...	2					

Being a total weight of 3,060 lbs.

Meat affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis.

Cattle.

<i>Abscesses</i>	...	...	...	Livers, 4.
<i>Cirrhosis</i>	...	...	...	Livers, 40.
<i>Distomatosis</i>	...	...	...	Lungs, 2.
„	...	...	...	Livers, 7.
<i>Enlargement</i>	...	...	...	Kidneys, 2.
<i>Hydatid Cysts</i>	...	...	...	Lungs, 4.
„	...	...	...	Livers, 5.
<i>Mastitis</i>	...	...	...	Udders, 2.
<i>Necrosis</i>	Livers, 6.
<i>Pleurisy</i>	Hearts, 1.
<i>Pneumonia</i>	Lungs, 1.

Calves.

<i>Septicaemia</i>	Carcases, 1.
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Pigs.

<i>Abscesses</i>	Livers, 1.
<i>Cirrhosis</i>	Livers, 3.
<i>Hydatid Cysts</i>	Livers, 3.
<i>Pneumonia</i>	Lungs, 9.
<i>Swine Erysipelas</i>	...	...	...	Carcase, 1.

Sheep.

<i>Abscesses</i>	...	...	...	Livers, 1.
<i>Cirrhosis</i>	...	...	...	Livers, 1.
<i>Cysts</i>	...	...	...	Livers, 4.
<i>Inflammation</i>	...	...	...	Carcase, 1.
<i>Parasitic</i>	...	...	...	1 portion of carcase.

Being a total weight of 857 lbs.

Total weight of meat condemned during 1926 ... 3,917 lbs.

Milk Supply.

The question of clean milk production was in the foreground during the whole year and the interest engendered by the Bingley Clean Milk Campaign of 1925 showed no abatement. As a result of this interest and the preliminary "spade work" accomplished, the initiation of the Milk & Dairies Order in the Autumn found a number of milk producers already carrying out many of its requirements. At meetings called in October to explain the Order to them no farmers expressed any dissentient feelings towards the new legislation, although there was a unanimous desire that the Order should be uniformly administered throughout the country.

The number of producers on the Register at the end of the year was 99, whose sheds number 197. 590 cowshed inspections were made during the year. This inspection occupied a considerable amount of time, owing to the scattered nature of the area.

There was an improvement, during the year, as regards methods on the farm amongst most of the farmers, but there still remain a few who, while not openly antagonistic to hygienic methods, require constant pressure to maintain a reasonable standard of cleanliness. As a last resource recourse may have to be had to the powers contained in the new Order for enforcement of satisfactory methods.

As regards structure nine sheds were remodelled during the year and several others improved in connection with lighting and ventilation. There is every indication that a considerable amount of structural improvement will be carried out during 1927.

Eighty-eight samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examinations as regards bacterial count and B. Coli during 1926. As recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture all samples were kept from 22 to 26 hours before examination at a temperature of about 59° to 60° F.

Analysis of the results showed that fifty-five per cent. of the samples compared favourably with the bacteriological standard for Grade A milk. Seventy-four per cent. of the samples had a bacterial count of less than 200,000 per c.c. which is the permissible limit for Grade A milk. Of this number 33 per cent. had a count of less than 30,000 per c.c. Only 7 per cent. contained more than one million bacteria per c.c.

In twenty per cent. of the samples examined B. coli or manurial organisms were not present in 1 c.c. In 40 per cent. of the samples they were only present in 1 c.c. or 1/10 c.c. In 20 per cent. of the samples B. Coli were present in 1/100 c.c. and in 19 per cent. were present in 1/1000 c.c. Only one sample during the year was sufficiently contaminated to permit of B. Coli being found in 1/10,000 c.c.

In order to stimulate the competitive spirit amongst local farmers marks are now being awarded for samples according to the scale suggested by the Ministry of Agriculture. Tabulated statements of results are prepared and results placed according to merit, the one securing most marks being given first place, and so on. A copy of this statement is sent to each farmer from whom a sample is procured. Only one name is given on each report—that of the farmer to whom the report is sent in order that he may have his own individual results and place without knowing the names of the other farmers on the list. This system of marking is having a good effect on the producers whose methods are at fault, as such farmers usually come at the bottom of the list. Many are now striving to secure the honour of first place.

A large number of enquiries from local Authorities regarding the administration of the Bingley Clean Milk Campaign were received during the year, and I am glad to note that many more or less similar educative schemes are being developed throughout the country.

Since the introduction of the Tuberculosis Order 1925, for which your Council repeatedly pressed, good work has been done in the area in the elimination of tubercular milch cattle. The Veterinary Inspector under the Order is H. M. Holland, Esq., F.R.C.V.S. Mr. Holland informs me that twenty-eight cases of bovine tuberculosis were dealt with from this district during the year, of which number nine were affected with tuberculosis of the udder. In two other cases there was commencing infection of the udder.

It must be generally admitted that money spent upon rendering our milk supplies pure, clean and free from tubercular infection is true economy, for such action will undoubtedly prevent the transmission of disease to human beings with consequent necessity for large expenditure on curative measures.

There are 41 purveyors of milk in the area, one of whom holds a license to distribute Certified Milk, while another purveyor has been granted a license to retail Grade A (ordinary) Milk.

The dairies and utensil stores of all milk dealers are inspected periodically but generally occasion little cause for complaint.

Bakehouses.

There were 38 Bakehouses on the Register at the end of 1926 of which number 6 are underground. The Bakehouses are generally maintained in a satisfactory state of cleanliness, the most frequent complaint being omission to limewash at the required time.

Ice-Cream Manufactories.

Supervision of premises where ice-cream is manufactured is carried out under the provisions of a local act which prohibits the manufacture of ice-cream in cellars or rooms containing drain inlets, and any act which may expose the commodity to infection or contamination. Seventy-eight inspections of such premises were made during the year as a result of which the manufacture of ice-cream in certain premises was prohibited in five cases. In more than one instance it was found that the trade was carried on in conjunction with some other business not at all conducive to cleanliness.

Offensive Trades.

The following table gives the list of trades which have been scheduled by the Council as offensive, together with the number of such businesses in the district at the end of 1926.

Blood Boiling	0	Maggot Breeding	0
Bone Boiling	0	Rag, Bone and Fat	
Fish Frying	24	Dealers	8
Fellmongering	2	Soap Boiling	1
Grease and Oil		Tallow Melting	0
Distilling	0	Tanning	5
Gut Scraping	1	Tripe Boiling	2

Ninety-two inspections of these premises were made during the year and notice given in respect of any breach of the Bye-laws discovered.

Factories and Workshops.

The sanitary accommodation of factories is periodically inspected by H.M. Factory Inspector, who refers to the Local Authority such matters as may be dealt with by them under the Public Health Acts.

Improvements effected as a result of such communications are given on page 26.

There are 116 workshops on the Register, the local authority being responsible for their inspection. The table appended gives the list of trades carried on in local workshops.

Baking	38	Plumbing	9
Blacksmiths	3	Saddlery	3
Boot and Shoe		Tailoring	13
Repairing	18	Joinery	4
Dressmaking	3	Millinery	5
Miscellaneous	20		

One hundred and twenty-six inspections of workshops were made during 1926. Speaking generally they are maintained in a fairly satisfactory condition though it was necessary in a few cases to issue notices requiring limewashing or cleansing.

Smoke Abatement.

The question of the smoke nuisance received special consideration by your Committee during the year. At the September meeting the Final Report of the West Riding Regional Smoke

Abatement Committee was discussed and a special Smoke Abatement Sub-Committee constituted to deal with the Regional Committee's recommendations. The Smoke Abatement Sub-Committee as constituted includes representatives of the Health, Gas and Electricity Committees, together with three co-opted members who represent manufacturers, stokers and householders respectively.

Since the formation of the Sub-Committee marked progress has been made on the question of Smoke Abatement. Special lectures and demonstrations on Smoke Prevention for the benefit of the owners of steam raising plants and firers were arranged and took place early in the present year, meeting with considerable success. The question of installing smokeless methods of heating in new houses received due consideration and it is hoped that something may shortly be done on this point. It is also worthy of note that the Council became affiliated during the year with the Smoke Abatement League of Great Britain.

The routine observations of factory chimneys were, of necessity, somewhat restricted in number during 1926, owing to the coal strike, manufacturers being compelled, in many instances, to use coal of high volatile content. A large number of observations taken before the commencement of the coal strike, however, showed that the steady reduction in the amount of industrial smoke emitted was being maintained as is evidenced in the following table.

SMOKE OBSERVATIONS.

Year.		Number of observations.		Average emission of black smoke.	Percentage of chimneys which emitted smoke in excessive quantities.	
1922	61	...	2.05 minutes	... 33
1923	99	...	1.45 ..	... 23
1924	110	...	.91 ..	... 13
1925	140	...	.67 ..	... 10
1926	110	...	.43 ..	... 6

The remarkable clarity of the atmosphere over Bingley during the period of the coal strike must have been observed by everyone, and proved that the domestic chimney had been responsible for the bulk of the smoke nuisance. It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when such a clean atmosphere is in the natural course of events enabling our townspeople to breathe pure, unpolluted air and receive in full measure the valuable ultra violet rays from the sun so necessary for their good health and well being.

Disinfection Work.

Forty-nine houses were disinfected in consequence of the occurrence of infectious diseases, together with a number of library books, bedding and clothing. 600 bottles of disinfectant fluid were given out by the Department during the year, chiefly to the caretakers of the elementary schools for use therein and to houses where tubercular patients were residing.

Drainage.

All new drains with the exception of those constructed under the supervision of the Surveyor's or Architect's Departments, whether in conjunction with new houses or existing buildings are inspected and tested by the staff of the department before being covered in.

Seven hundred and eighteen new drains were inspected during the year, of which 186 were disapproved. This work of new drainage inspection takes up a large amount of time and frequently interrupts other routine duties as appointments to test new drains have to be kept punctually in order to avoid gangs of men being left idle. To do such work efficiently renders readily available transport to any part of the district an absolute necessity.

Two hundred and sixty-nine old drains were exposed, mostly under the provisions of Section 41 of the Public Health Act 1875. Many defective drains were found in the village of Wilsden and there undoubtedly remain a large number still defective in this particular area. I would again stress the need for Wilsden residents to report any persistent bad smell to the Health Department, whose officers will treat the complaint confidentially and make immediate investigation.

I desire again to refer to the careless habit of a large section of the public in depositing tea-leaves, slops, etc., in the street gulleys which are intended for the reception of surface water only. Owing to the large capacity of the street gully such matters are retained for a lengthy period during dry weather rendering the same almost as offensive as miniature cesspools.

It is felt that this habit can only be eradicated by educational methods. Accordingly, illustrated notes for a lesson on "Drains" "Their Use and Abuse" were prepared during the year and submitted to each elementary school in the area with a request that a special lesson be given on the subject. It is to be hoped that such steps as this may lead, eventually, to a cessation of the practice.

Public Health Propaganda.

Advantage was taken, during the year, of the provisions of Section 67 of the Public Health Act, 1925, which gives power to Local Authorities to disseminate information within their area on questions relative to health or disease, and for the delivery of lectures and the display of pictures in which such questions are dealt with.

The following lectures, to the organisations mentioned, were given by the writer during the year, most of them being illustrated by lantern slides.

Bingley Milk Retailers' Association.

Subject : " Clean Milk."

Bingley Young Liberals' Association.

Subject : " Public Health Work."

Bingley Fellowship of Marriage.

Subject : " Clean Milk."

Bingley Training College Students.

Subject : " Housing."

Bingley Victoria Lodge of Oddfellows.

Subject : " The Smoke Evil."

Bingley Women Citizens' League.

Subject : " The Smoke Evil."

During the first week of October meetings of farmers were organised throughout the area in connection with the operation of the new Milk & Dairies Order. The legal aspect of the Order was explained at these Meetings by the Clerk to the Council and the technical requirements dealt with by the writer, while the general policy of the Council with regard to the new legislation was discussed by the Chairman of the Health Committee. There is no doubt that this series of meetings have materially assisted the smooth administration of the Order in your area.

Various posters on health topics have been exhibited during the year throughout the area.

MISCELLANEOUS INSPECTIONS.

Common Lodging House.

There is only one Common Lodging House in the district, which is kept under fairly frequent observation in order to see that the requirements of the Council's Byelaws are observed.

Cinemas and Music Halls.

These places of public amusement were inspected during the year and gave little cause for complaint.

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

The Bingley area is a popular locality for campers and weekenders who inhabit bungalows and hutments in some of the most picturesque parts of the district. The sanitary arrangements of such places are not always of the best, and steps have been taken to prevent fouling of streams and water-courses.

During the year the Council made Byelaws dealing with Tents, Vans, Sheds and similar structures used for habitation within their area.

Canal Boats.

A portion of the Leeds & Liverpool Canal consisting of a stretch of approximately three miles is within the boundaries of the Bingley U.D.C.

Fourteen visits were made to the Canal and 37 boats inspected. Only four of these boats carried females and children were on board in two cases only. In both cases the children's age was under 12 months.

The boats were generally very clean and in good repair.

The only contraventions of the law discovered were of a boat being improperly marked and a certificate not identifying the owner. Steps were taken to secure compliance with the Regulations.

No case of infectious disease was reported or discovered on any boat passing through the district during the year.

HOUSE REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

The above work comes under the supervision of the Health Committee while gully cleansing and street sweeping are supervised by the Highways Committee.

Collection.

During the year a scheme of partial reorganisation of the house refuse collection was submitted to the Council and approved by them. It is proposed to employ two light speedy lorries fitted with special bodies in place of the present 30 cwt. lorry which has now been in service for several years. The new scheme was rendered essential owing to the continual growth of the area and the necessity for reducing "waiting time" on the part of the loaders while the lorry was away tipping. The Health Committee are also desirous of giving a weekly emptying of dustbins throughout the populous parts of the district, but such service was not possible with the old system.

A new foreman was appointed during the year who is taking a keen interest in improving the efficiency of the Department.

A small costing system was also inaugurated which has given some very valuable information, although we are somewhat handicapped by the absence of proper weighing facilities.

The normal staff employed consisted of a 30 cwt. lorry and four men, three horses and carts with six men. Two of the horses and carts with their complement of men were exclusively employed at Wilsden, Cullingworth and Harden, where they also assist the Highways Dept. Hired team labour was employed during the "peak" months when refuse production was high.

The total weight (estimated and checked by periodical weighings) of refuse collected was 5827 tons, at a cost of £2017.

The following figures are of interest. They apply to the year ending March 31st, 1927.

Total weight collected.	Total cost of collection.	Cost per ton.	Cost per house.	Cost per head.	Weight per house.
5827 tons.	£2,017.	6 11	7 3	2 0½	21 cwts.
Weight per head per annum.	Weight per 1,000 population per day.		Weight per 1,000 population per day England & Wales.		
5.9 cwts.	16.2 cwts.		15 cwts.		

Our collection cost of 6 11 per ton does not compare unfavourably with other provincial towns whose figure varies from 6 to 8 shillings per ton, especially considering that nearly all of our refuse is dry and correspondingly bulky.

I desire to stress the fact that local householders do not yet appreciate the need for destroying combustible refuse at home. It is a fact that during the coal strike when fuel was at a premium, large quantities of good cinders were still thrown away by housewives. It is estimated that upwards of 1000 tons of cinders are thus wasted each year in this area.

Considering that such cinders may have a calorific value of 8,500 B.T.U.'s per lb. it is obvious that a grave waste of fuel is taking place, apart from the unnecessary addition to the rate burden by increasing the amount of refuse to be removed.

Much more could be done, too, in burning paper, potato-peelings, and light combustible rubbish at home and such action would materially reduce the bulk of the towns refuse.

Disposal.

Refuse is disposed of by means of controlled tipping. There are tips in connection with each centre of population and these are kept free from nuisance. The tips which are at all near to dwellinghouses are covered with soil and clean refuse, and it is gratifying to note that no complaints were received with respect to any of the tips during the year. Wherever possible on completing a portion of a tip, grass is sown and shrubs are planted.

This method of disposal costs only 1 1 per ton and is the best scheme for such a scattered area. A refuse separation and utilisation plant would prove more costly, while there is the additional advantage that otherwise waste land is being gradually reclaimed and put to good use.

None of the tips are on fire, and careful watch is maintained so that any outbreak may be immediately checked.

The gross cost of disposal was £368. Receipts from tipping charges etc. amounted to £45, leaving a net cost of £323.

In concluding this Report I desire to express my sincere appreciation of the support received during the year from the Health Committee. I particularly thank the Chairman of the Committee, Councillor W. Rushton, for his keen interest and help in connection with matters of policy. Great assistance was rendered throughout the year by Councillor W. Longbottom in relation to propaganda work. Mr. Longbottom not only loaned his lantern and cinematograph, but also gave up much time to operate them personally, and I wish gratefully to acknowledge his services in this respect.

I have to thank the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, Surveyor and other officials for their willing help and unfailing courtesy and also to express my appreciation of the loyal services of my colleague Mr. Darley, and clerk, Mr. Snowden, both of whom have done valuable work, very often after their regular hours of duty.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. E. COOKE.